

REMARKS

Claims 19-42 are now pending. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-18. (Claims 15-18 had been withdrawn.)

The newly added claims are directed to allowing a user to customize the graphical representation (e.g., Gantt or PERT chart) of project data. As pointed out in applicant's specification, conventional project planning software typically did not permit a user to customize the shapes or sizes of individual graphical elements (or nodes) representing tasks (e.g., work activities). In addition, conventional project planning software did not allow a user to customize the graphical elements based on the category of the represented claims. The newly added claims are directed to the customizing of a graphical element representing an individual task or a task in a selected category.

Although general-purpose drawing tools, such as Visio, allow a user considerable flexibility in manually generating and formatting diagrams, such tools cannot be used to format a graphical representation of project data that is generated by project planning software and typical project planning software does not provide such flexibility. The reason that project planning software does not provide such flexibility is that it considers Gantt and PERT charts of project data to be simply an output representation of the project data. Although conventional project planning software may give some flexibility in formatting such charts, it does not provide the flexibility that is the focus of these claims.

None of the references cited by the Examiner is related to project planning. Moreover, the references neither teach nor suggest that graphical elements representing tasks of a project can be formatted on a task-by-task or category-by-category basis.

Application No.: 09/703,748

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9/21/09



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